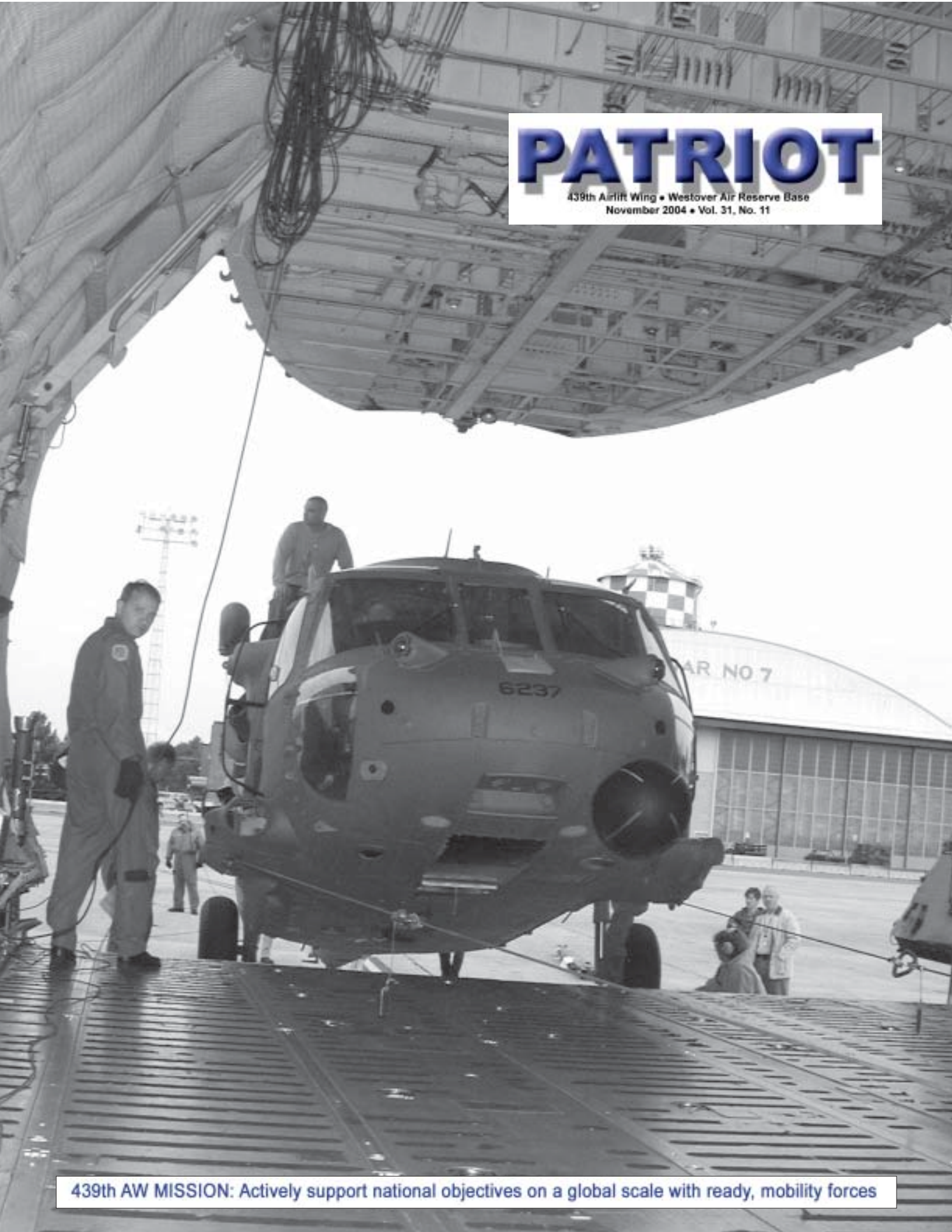


PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
November 2004 • Vol. 31, No. 11



439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces

The importance of giving thanks

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. I know you have all heard it and seen it in print that you should reflect and give thanks this time of year for all your blessings. I'm sure many of you take the time to do that. In that spirit, I would like to remind you of a few things to include on your list to be thankful for.

Commentary

The last three years have been a very busy time for Westover - in fact, the busiest since Desert Shield/Storm, and for many of you, the busiest ever. All of us in the 439th should give thanks that during this busy time we had no major accidents or serious injuries. Also, be thankful that Westover had the ability: our men and women possessed the drive and dedication to accomplish our mission these last three years in a superb manner. In fact, we have done it so well that we have been recognized at the highest levels, including winning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award two out of the last three years.

That is definitely something to be thankful for.

I know over the last few years the support of your families has been important. I am absolutely sure I wouldn't be where I am today with my accomplishments without the support of my wife Kim. In addition, I know many of us received invaluable support from our friends, neighbors, co-workers, employers, and from the communities where we live and work. Don't forget to add them to your Thanksgiving thank-you list.

Finally, let's be thankful for this great country we are charged with defending. From my travels all over the world I can honestly say that this is absolutely the best nation on the planet. We are very fortunate to live here.

So this Thanksgiving, as you sit down to your turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie, don't forget to pause for a few moments and give thanks for all our many blessings.



Col. Wade Farris

439th Airlift Wing commander



November 2004

Volume 31
Number 11

"This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *PATRIOT* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force."

"The content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated."

439th Airlift Wing commander

Col. Wade Farris
Chief of Public Affairs/Co-editor
Gordon A. Newell

Air Reserve Technician/Co-editor

Tech. Sgt. Andrew S. Biscoe
Wing Public Affairs Officers
Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger
Maj. Wilson Camelo

NCOIC

Senior Master Sgt. Sandi M. Michon

Deputy NCOIC

Master Sgt. Tom N. Allocco

Illustrator

Master Sgt. W.C. Pope



Staff

Master Sgt. Anne C. Ward
Staff Sgt. Paul N. Flipse
Senior Airman Tom R. Ouellette
Senior Airman Michael S. Lanza

Administration

Staff Sgt. Mary E. Gallagher
Stephen P. Lambert

439Patriot.Editor@westover.af.mil

- (413) 557-3500 -

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

Briefs

Fourth quarter award recipients announced

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following fourth quarter award winners for the fiscal 2004.

Airman:

Senior Airman Patrick Carlin, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

NCO:

Tech. Sgt. Richard D. Chapp, ASTS

Senior NCO:

Senior Master Sgt. Anthony DelDuco, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron

Civilian:

Robert Andreoli, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron

Civilian Supervisor:

Robert Ford, 439th Communications Squadron

Company Grade Officer:

Capt. Mark Bialas, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Base snow line provides weather updates

A snow line keeps reservists and base employees updated in the event of inclement weather. The phone number is 1-800-367-3444.

Article lists incorrect phone for IG office

An article that appeared in the October *Patriot* listed an incorrect office phone number.

The 439th Airlift Wing Inspector General's office phone number is Ext. 3137, DSN 589-3137.

Cover photo

CHOPPER ABOARD—One of two Air Force Reserve H-60 helicopters is loaded onto a Patriot Wing C-5 at Westover Sept. 30. Members of the 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons, along with crew members of 337th Airlift Squadron, loaded the choppers for their trip back to Patrick AFB, Fla. The aircraft had been relocated from Patrick just before the string of hurricanes that devastated Florida in September.

- photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Colonel 'truly thrilled' to lead staging squadron

by Senior Airman Tom Ouellette

Col. Robert A. Sousa took command of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at a change of command ceremony Sept. 25 at the Westover Conference Center.

Colonel Sousa, the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron's administrator since 1994, succeeded Col. Sarah F. Waterman upon her retirement.

"To the proud men and women of the 439th ASTS, I'm truly thrilled and honored to join your team. Thank you for already making me feel at home," Colonel Sousa said during the ceremony.

The new commander also acknowledged the co-workers of his former unit. "Thank you for the friendship and support that you've offered over the last 20 years - I will truly miss you," he said.

Colonel Sousa's military career has been served almost entirely in the 439th AMDS. As an enlisted member, he reached the rank of master sergeant in the unit before receiving his commission in 1985. As an officer, he remained in the 439th AMDS serving in



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

REPORT REVIEW - Col. Robert A. Sousa reviews a performance report with Senior Master Sgt. Michelle M. Dunfield, 439th ASTS first sergeant. Colonel Sousa took command of ASTS Sept. 25.

many roles. Since 9/11, Colonel Sousa was named officer in charge of Westover's air base medical facility responsible for supporting the medical needs of activated and transient troops on base.

Colonel Sousa's job performance has

included solid administrative skills in the medical field. Two years ago, he earned the Brig. Gen. Donald B. Wagner Administrative Excellence Award, which honors officers' outstanding administrative leadership. In addition, his contributions led in part to the 439th AMDS success in consistently receiving top honors as one of the Air Force Reserve's best units.

Colonel Sousa called on ASTS members to embrace the Air Force's core values. In addition, he stressed two tenets of his leadership philosophy he wanted his unit to know. The first is his belief in fostering a "meritocracy," or making sure those who contribute are rewarded. Secondly, he plans to learn as much from them as they may learn from him.

The colonel was a high school English teacher and musical director for more than 20 years. Borrowing a line from the musical "The King and I," the last musical he directed, he wanted his unit to hear this: "It's a very ancient saying. But a true and honest thought: 'If you become a teacher, by your pupils you'll be taught.'"

Wing mourns loss of former command post superintendent

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The Patriot Wing suffered a loss in its ranks in September as cancer took the life of Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Fitzgibbon.

Sergeant Fitzgibbon, 45, former command post superintendent, died Sept. 21 at Beth-Israel hospital in Boston due to complications from leukemia.

Chaplain (Capt.) William S. Wiecher officiated the sergeant's funeral. Sergeant Fitzgibbon posthumously received the Meritorious Service Medal. Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, presented the folded American flag to Sergeant Fitzgibbon's wife, Jamie, at the Sept. 23 ceremony.

Sergeant Fitzgibbon was activated during the surge of operations in early 2003 when more than 2,000 C-5s passed through the base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While under Sergeant Fitzgibbon's leadership, the wing command post took best in Air Force Reserve Command for 2003.

Sergeant Fitzgibbon served in the Army and Army National Guard before joining the Air Force Reserve at Westover in June 1990. As a flight engineer, he accumulated more

than 2,000 hours in the C-5. He was activated from 1990 to 1992 and served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Sergeant Fitzgibbon moved to the command post in June 1998.

In mid-2003, as he became ill with leukemia, and was in intensive care at Beth-Israel Hospital at the same time when Lt. Col. Armand Tourangeau, former wing performance planner, was being treated for his cancer. Colonel Tourangeau died in October 2003.

Master Sgt. Nelson A. Serrao, air reserve technician and acting command post superintendent during Sergeant Fitzgibbon's illness, worked with the sergeant for 14 years. Both had similar military backgrounds as C-5 flight engineers. Sergeant Serrao remembered how this experience helped them at the command post.

"We knew we could make a difference with our backgrounds," Sergeant Serrao said. "The backgrounds helped out in a big way. We know how to communicate the message of the problem to maintenance. We know the components. Having people know the airplane is a big plus."

Lt. Col. David Maloy, officer in charge of the command post and chief of command and control, spoke about Sergeant Fitzgibbon's dedication on and off the job. "He was a true professional that showed a zest for every endeavor, yet always connected to the importance of compassion and

the safety of others," Colonel Maloy said. "Joe's extraordinary technical skills were balanced by such examples as receiving a commendation for saving a drowning swimmer. He never failed to seek ways that might enhance the safety of aircrews and aircraft yet was easily at home when hosting a cookout at the base for his fellow reservists. Joe was a manager, a pro and a friend. His contributions cannot be measured but will serve as a beacon for others."

Besides his wife, Sergeant Fitzgibbon is survived by his three children, Joseph, Michael, and Mary Kate of Ware, Mass., and his parents Joseph and Mary.



**Sergeant
Fitzgibbon**

Donation information

Funeral donations in memory of Sergeant Fitzgibbon may be made to:

**Bone Marrow Transplant In-Patient
7th Floor, Feldberg Edward Robert
George
Beth-Israel Deaconess Medical Center**

**330 Brookline Avenue
Boston, Mass. 02215-5400**

Checks should be made out to BIDC. Donors should make sure to write "In Memory of Joseph Fitzgibbon" on the memo sections of their checks.

Colonel McGregor recounts one day of war

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lt. Col. Karl McGregor, 439th Operations Group commander, oversaw the movement of 40,000 troops in July while deployed to Kuwait on an air expeditionary force mission. Colonel McGregor served as commander of the 386th Expeditionary Operations Group commander at a deployed location in Kuwait, in June, July and August.



**Colonel
McGregor**

In an e-mail in August, he wrote: "We have airplanes flying into Iraq to support OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) all day long and every hour and we also support OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) into Afghanistan a number of times each week."

Colonel McGregor's expeditionary operations group was rotating Soldiers and Marines and delivering cargo throughout the AOR, including Kuwait City; Al Asad, Balad, Baghdad, Tallil and Mosul, Iraq; and Al Udeid, Qatar.

In his e-mail message, Colonel McGregor offered a first-hand account into one individual's experience of a single day in the war against terrorism. Following is Colonel McGregor's recollection of that day.

I flew on August 1 and the day went something like this:

The crew alerted at 0500 for an 0800 departure. The departure is a balmy 89 Fahrenheit. We meet at the DFAC (dining facility) which is run by a contractor 24 hours a day. Breakfast choices at that time of the morning are cereal, fruit, pop tarts and any kind of juice you could want. The full breakfast starts at 0600 and includes everything edible that anyone could remotely want for breakfast.

We depart the DFAC on the dot at 0600 and catch crew transportation to Hangar 17, which houses our mission control, intelligence and tactics sections. The crew gets the latest briefings from Intel and Tactics, sanitizes their uniforms by removing all patches, picks up their secrets, signs out the night vision goggles, loads up the coolers with ice, water, frozen pizza, frozen burritos and then heads out to the aircraft.

Maintenance has the C-130 ready and it's no time at all before the passengers and pallets show up behind the aircraft. The troops we're hauling are fully configured for going into Iraq. They have

their helmets, flak vests, backpacks, guns and water.

It is now 0730 and the temperature has risen to 105 degrees. We taxi out, take the runway and we're off the ground in a matter of minutes. As we climb to altitude, the crew members run the combat entry checklist, put on their flak vests and helmets, arm the missile defense system and brief the planned arrival into Balad Airfield, Iraq.

We are airborne about an hour when it is time to descend, so the loadmasters take their position in the troop doors and everyone puts eyes in the windows to look for ground fire and missile launches. We land without incidences and fast taxi to the end of the runway and exit onto the cargo pad.

The plan is to keep the engines running, open the aft ramp, remove the pallet with a forklift, deplane the troops onto the waiting buses, enplane the troops leaving Iraq, load their pallet, close and leave. The entire process normally takes less than 15 minutes.

Today, however, as we begin the onload the warning sirens sound and the ground crew immediately scatters, heading for the bunkers. The temperature is about 110 Fahrenheit. The C-130 crew immediately shuts down all engines,

chocks the wheels and follows the ground crew and troops into the bunker.

In the bunker, with helmets and flak vests in place, we listen as mortars and rockets hit the airfield and the counter-batteries return fire. On this day the attack is very heavy and we spend an hour waiting for the all clear signal. When it finally sounds, we hurry to the airplane, call for passengers, grab more water and then the warning horn sounds again and we head back to the bunkers.

On this day we have three distinct attacks and we manage to be on the ground for all of them. When we finally leave we have spent three and a half hours on the ground, but it seems like more.

Finally airborne and headed back to Salem with our troops and cargo, we reach the relative safety of high altitude and cross the southern border back into Kuwait. After we land, the aircraft is refueled, more troops are put on and we head to Baghdad for the next leg which is mostly uneventful. The ground temperature this afternoon is 135 Fahrenheit on the flight line.

The crews perform this dance every other day with 24/7 support from maintenance and all the agencies stationed here.



Courtesy photo

PATIENT TIME - Maj. Robert D. Rostedt, left, and Tech Sgt. Richard D. Chapp, deployed members of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, prepare one of their patients in September at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Sergeant Chapp is also the 439th Airlift Wing's noncommissioned officer for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004.

Deployed civil engineers keep UAE air base humming

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

At Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, planes don't take off and land without the skills of Patriot Wing civil engineers.

The civil engineers are everywhere on base, fixing cranky air conditioning, maintaining water supply, and restoring electricity that fails in the extreme desert heat.

About 50 civil engineers of the 439th CES arrived at the United Arab Emirate air base on the Persian Gulf at the beginning of September. They will be there through the holidays, and are scheduled to come home in January.

The carpenters, plumbers, electricians, firefighters and other Patriot Wing civil engineers have left their mark on deployments around the world. The UAE mission is a unique opportunity to be at the center of the action.

"We probably do more here that is directly related to the overall mission of the wing than we have done anywhere in the past," said Chief Master Sgt. Joseph J. Cullen, chief of operations of one of a flight of civil engineers with trades skills.

"In other places we build a building or a school or fix something. Here, aircraft depend on us to take off or land. What we do here is make or break for the mission. If they don't have power, or don't have air conditioning, they can't do the mission. These are the services we provide and you have to have them for aircraft to take off," he said.

The civil engineers are providing services for the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at the UAE base, where the main mission is aerial refueling and aerial surveillance. The Patriot Wing teams are part of the 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. Reservists make up more than 90 percent of its ranks.

For the civil engineers, sustaining a base on the Persian Gulf is like trying to keep machinery running inside an oven. Every day they get lessons in what triple digit heat can do to equipment.

"The air conditioning trades are the busiest. Breakdowns are going on non-stop. They're working around the clock repairing air conditioning," Chief Cullen said. "All the shops are busy. The electricians are repairing equipment that is faulty because of the heat. It's starting to cool. Today it was 110 degrees. When we first got

here it went up to 120. We find ourselves getting use to it. They say that in the cooler months it will only be 90 during the day," the chief said.

Immediately after 9/11, troops and aircraft began to flow into Al Dhafra. In three years the base quadrupled in size. Now the carpenters and construction trades are working overtime to repair and maintain facilities at the bustling base. Al Dhafra produces its own power at a plant maintained by power production specialist. Plumbers also struggle to maintain water storage and waste disposal. "Once or twice a day we lose water supply and have to go to alternate pumps and tanks," Chief Cullen said.

Besides the trades flight of electricians, plumbers, carpenters, air condition specialists and others, about a dozen Westover firefighters are on base. Many of the firefighters previously deployed to Kuwait in 2002. Master Sgt. Mark A. Czmyr serves as base fire chief. The engineering flight includes Maj. Anthony R. Sheeran, Maj. Paul E. Goliber and Maj. Anthony F. Williams. Senior Master Sgt. Alan P. Dedinas heads the base readiness flight. Senior Master Sgt. Dean L. Pursell and Master Sgt. Robert A. Harris are serving as readiness specialists at Kirkuk, Iraq. Readiness specialists respond to nuclear, biological and chemical threats.

The base has some amenities. Although most people live in tents, they can visit Pizza Hut, Baskin Robbins and Dunkin Donuts in trailers. Work days are 12-hours plus, but there are occasional "morale passes" to the nearby capital city of Abu Dhabi where souvenirs can be bought.

Telephone calling cards provided by the VFW, are a big morale-builder and are distributed by the Westover Support Center. When calling, the reservists have to take into account that they are eight time zones away from home.

"The hardest part is being away from families. Being away for the holidays is going to be tough," said Chief Cullen, who was days away from missing his son's 18th birthday.

As they have done in deployments around the world, the civil engineers are taking the good with the bad and getting the job done, the chief said. "There's a positive attitude. People are pleased with their work because they feel they are doing something important. That makes it a good experience," he said.

Memo improves employment protection for reservists

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 2004—Attorney General John Ashcroft and Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao signed a memorandum of understanding to protect the employment rights of men and women returning from military service.

The memorandum strengthens enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, commonly known as USERRA. Congress passed the act to safeguard the employment rights and benefits of service members returning to civilian life.

The memorandum deals exclusively with each department's role and responsibilities in the enforcement of USERRA. The attorney general has delegated his USERRA responsibilities to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorneys' offices.

The Department of Labor has delegated its USERRA responsibilities to the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and the Office of the Solicitor.

The memorandum will streamline the enforcement process, allowing the two agencies to work closely and effectively to ensure the protection of USERRA rights.

When a complaint raises an "issue of immediate and significant harm" and each agency agrees that the complaint appears legitimate, it may be referred for enforcement immediately, officials explained. This prevents two agencies from working on the same issue, wasting time and resources.

In late September, the Department of Labor issued new regulations strengthening USERRA protections.

In addition to the new regulations, Chao and the DOL's Veterans' Employment and

Training Services have taken other steps to reduce the rate of USERRA violations, to include:

- * Providing briefings to more than 158,000 service members and others on USERRA;

- * Responding to almost 26,000 requests for technical assistance;

- * Distributing more than 240 televised public service announcements, with a second announcement to be released shortly; and

- * Addressing most of the major human resource and employer organizations.

(American Forces Press Service from a Department of Justice news release.)

Westover Marines return from duty in Iraq



photos by Master Gunnery Sgt. Lee Forester, Marines Peacetime Wartime Support Team

FAMILIES WAIT - Family members of the Marines Air Support Squadron-Six await the arrival of their loved ones while standing and holding thank-you signs in front of the 2nd Lt. Michael J. Casey Marine Corps Reserve Training Center.



GROUP HUG - Family members hug Marines Gunnery Sgt. John M. Leach upon his return to Westover Aug. 27. Sergeant Leach was among a group of Marine Corps members from Westover who came home after serving seven months in Iraq.

Combined Federal Campaign kicks off with breakfast, tour

Article and photo

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A kickoff breakfast at the Westover Club got the Pioneer Valley Combined Federal Campaign under way Sept. 28.

Tech. Sgt. Glenn Connon, an aircraft electrician with the 439th AMXS, is the CFC co-chair for the second consecutive year.

Sergeant Connon said this year's campaign goal is to exceed the benchmark set last year. "Our number one goal on base is 100 percent contact, 50 percent participation," he said. About 20 key workers from each unit at Westover are helping raise the money, which goes to charities throughout the Pioneer Valley, locally and nationwide.

The Pioneer Valley CFC is a federal employee program that supports charity organizations through tax-deductible donations.

Ninety people lined up for the breakfast at the Westover Club for the campaign, which ends Dec. 15. In addition to coordinating the breakfast, Sergeant Connon and Senior Master Sgt. James Mitchell, a CFC co-chair and also with the 439th AMXS, arranged a C-5 tour with the Westover Public Affairs Office staff for 20 of the guests.

The kickoff preceded six weeks of solicitations on the base that wraps up Nov. 15, Sergeant Connon said. Solicitors will contact the base populace through the weeks and during the November UTAs.

Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, urged reservists to donate to the campaign. "For just a dollar coming out of your paychecks, you are helping organizations who in turn help people," he said. "This donation amounts to about what it costs to pay for a cup of coffee." Reservists can make one-time donations, while civilian workers may have their donations taken out of their paychecks through allotments.

A CFC charity run is planned for the November A UTA, Sergeant Connon said. It will take place with the annual Turkey Trot at the fitness center Nov. 6 at 11:30 a.m. For more information about the Pioneer Valley CFC can visit its web site at www.cfcvalley.org. People with questions about the Westover campaign may call Sergeant Connon at Exts. 3296 or 2074 or any keyworker.



TOUR TIME - Tech. Sgt. Donald G. Durand, 439th Maintenance Group quality assurance inspector and volunteer tour guide, takes Combined Federal Campaign key workers through a C-5 Sept. 28. The tour and breakfast at the Westover Club kicked off this year's CFC efforts in the Pioneer Valley.

Command selects former 10th AF chief for top post

by 1st. Lt. Lance Patterson
Air Force Reserve Command
Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett will become Air Force Reserve Command's command chief master sergeant later this year, said AFRC officials Sept. 28.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, selected Chief Winsett from among 20 nominees for the position. Air Force reservists from all categories – traditional reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, air reserve technicians and Active Guard Reserve members – applied for the command's top enlisted position.

Chief Winsett has been the command chief for 10th Air Force at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, since May 2000. He will be the fourth command chief that AFRC has had since its inception as a major command in 1997 and the 12th person to hold the job in the Air Force Reserve since March 1973.

The position of AFRC command chief master sergeant is a 3-year controlled tour at Robins AFB. The duties involve com-



Chief Winsett

municating with the commander on problems, concerns, morale and attitudes of the enlisted force and, in turn, ensuring the commander's policies are known and understood by the enlisted force.

"My concern is for the enlisted force and the utilization of the force," said Chief Winsett. "I anticipate working hard for the next 36 months ensuring the needs of the enlisted corps are met."

Chief Winsett will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl D. Adams, who has served as the AFRC command chief master sergeant

since February 2001. She was the first African-American woman to hold the title of command chief on active duty for a major command. Chief Adams is being considered for a position within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. If selected she will report for duty in the Pentagon as early as Dec. 1.

Chief Winsett entered the Air Force Reserve in 1981 after serving initially on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969 with tours in Berlin, Germany, and in the Republic of Vietnam.

His duties in the Air Force Reserve included assignments as an administrative specialist, military personnel flight specialist, group career advisor, first-sergeant and command chief master sergeant.

He served as the senior enlisted advisor for the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., before becoming the command chief for 10th Air Force.

In his civilian career, Chief Winsett worked for the Federal Deposit Insurance Co. and owned a consulting firm. He retired from both occupations, devoting the last three years to full-time service in the Air Force Reserve.

Chief Winsett has lived in Lexana, Kan., since 1989 where he has been a traditional reservist. He is married and the father of one daughter and two sons.

Chief Winsett holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and business and a master of arts degree in business and counseling. (AFRC News Service)

Citizen Airmen follow same political activity rules as active duty

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - Citizen Airmen serving in the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve follow the same rules governing political activity as their active-duty compatriots.

Questions about what Airmen can or cannot do abound in this presidential election year, and some situations have become national news. The rules on political activity are largely the same for all Airmen in uniform, but one area differs. Although active-duty Airmen are prohibited from holding public office, reservists and guardsmen can, said Philip Donohoe, Air Force Reserve Command director of general law. "But fulfilling the duties of these offices must stop once a reservist or guardsman puts on the uniform and reports for duty," Mr. Donohoe said.

Air Force reservists and guardsmen who are serving on active duty under Title 10 of the U.S. Code for more than 30 days must comply with the active-duty rules contained in Air Force Instruction 51-902, "Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force." Reservists and guardsmen who are on active duty less than 30 days follow the more general guidelines set out in Paragraph 8 of AFI 51-902.

All reservists and guardsmen must refrain from participating in any political activity while in uniform and from using government facilities for political activities. Guardsmen who per-

form duties in Title 32 USC status should be aware of any special restrictions on political activities imposed by their respective state authorities.

While active-duty Airmen may not campaign for, or hold, elective civil office, reservists and guardsmen are not so constrained. As long as they are not serving on extended active duty - defined to be active duty under a call or order for more than 270 days - reservists may campaign for, and hold, partisan or nonpartisan civil office. It must be held in a private capacity and must not interfere with the performance of military duties. When reservists and guardsmen campaign for elective office, they must be careful to avoid using their military status as a political selling point.

For example, a reservist campaigning for office should not use political flyers that show the reservist in his or her military uniform. Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty," gives guidance to all military branches and is the source for AFI 51-902. Political activities of civilian federal government employees fall under the guidance of the Hatch Act, and the Joint Ethics Regulation, DOD 5500.7-R, Chapter 6, "Political Activities."

Westover reservists with questions should contact Lt. Col. Peter H. Babcock, 439th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate at Ext. 3180. Civilian employees should contact Maj. Laura Feltman, active-duty staff judge advocate, at Ext. 3513. The legal office is located in wing headquarters (Bldg. 1850) on Patriot Avenue.

Practice ma

October mobility exercise p



LINING UP - Airmen process through the mobility line in the Base Hangar on the October A UTA during the processing exercise. The mobility training included weapons and mobility bag draws as well as making sure mobility folders were up to date.

Article and photos
by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

With the onset of the October A-UTA two-day mobility exercise, the 439th Airlift Wing is going full-throttle gearing up for the wing Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for August 2006.

The exercise kicked off at 8 a.m. Friday before the October UTA and wrapped up Saturday afternoon. Mobility processing involved about 185 people and 100 tons of cargo within four chawks.

Though the first in several years, the base-wide training exercise was successful in exercising all parts of the deployment machinery in one comprehensive practice preparing for the upcoming ORI, according to Lt. Col. Forrest D. Price, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron officer. He is responsible for planning and conducting regularly scheduled deployment exercises.

"The purpose of this exercise was to help get the wing prepared for the ORI and to improve our ability to deploy our reservists anytime we are tasked," said the colonel. "We tried to involve as many people as possible with a small percentage of personnel from each unit."

The exercise went very well considering it was the first since July 2001, with the last ORI conducted March 1997, he said.

"We had a few minor problems and worked at correcting them — this is exactly what we wanted to happen," Colonel Price said. "Overall we had fewer problems than anticipated."

This begins a series of large-scale training exercises with a weeklong deployment exercise scheduled for March 2005 to Savannah International Airport, Ga.

Within the last six years the ORI structure has changed due to global commitments and Aerospace Expeditionary Force requirements reflecting AEF unit



BATTLE BAGS - Airmen gather their mobility bags in the Base Hangar. More than 180 Airmen with the 439th Airlift Wing participated in the readiness exercise.

type code tasking by unit versus whole organizations, Colonel Price said.

"Now we have gone back to the larger wing training exercises and ORIs to lessen the footprint on individual units which has proven to be more efficient and cohesive," he said.

After-action briefings identified strengths as well as areas needing improvement.

"One strong area was cargo processing conducted by Griffin Services, 439th Traffic Management Office," Colonel Price said. "They conducted their operations in an outstanding manner exhibiting superior skill in being very responsive to unit needs."

Also identified was the need for additional training of individuals selected for equipment custodian positions responsible for deploying with cargo, equipment or weapons, he said.

Cargo processing for the exercise was accomplished on day one. Passenger processing went through the mobility line at the Base Hangar on day two for chawks 2,3, and 4. Processing was well ahead of schedule, completed within 45 minutes rather than the scheduled hour and a half timeframe, said Col. James R. Hosey, 439th AW vice

see EXERCISE continued on next page

kes perfect

aves way for ORI preparation



A WEIGH TO GO - Griffin Services worker Jamie J. Beauchemin weighs a chalk during the mobility exercise. Griffin teamed up with the Patriot Wing reservists during the two-day exercise designed to test the wing's ability to deploy.



TAGS CHECK - Readiness areas, such as verifying dog tags, were all part of the processing line during the exercise. Records reviewed included shot records, mobility folders, and wills and powers of attorney.

"The purpose of this exercise was to help get the wing prepared for the ORI and to improve our ability to deploy our reservists anytime we are tasked. We tried to involve as many people as possible with a small percentage of personnel from each unit."

**-- Lt. Col. Forrest D. Price,
439th Logistics Readiness
Squadron officer**

EXERCISE continued from page 8

commander. "We had great participation, everyone was here," said the colonel. "Exercises will have some glitches but it gives us the chance to learn where to make corrections as we go — before the ORI."

Many participants, both mobility veterans and new members, said they were pleasantly surprised at how quickly and smoothly processing was accomplished and that the exercise realistically mirrored an actual overseas deployment.

"I've been doing mobility for the better part of 14 years and this was the best exercise I've seen so far," said Staff Sgt. Christopher C. O'Brian, 439th LRS vehicle dispatcher. "It was well planned and executed from start to finish - they didn't tie us up any longer than necessary and the hangar was large

enough to quickly process everyone at once."

"The longest part of the day was the wait in between chalk times. Other than that, everything went off without a hitch since we were well briefed and provided with assistance every step of the way," said Senior Airman Mark T. O'Connor, 439th LRS driver, on his first exercise.

Ongoing mobility training will be conducted in conjunction with the Savannah deployment, said Colonel Price.

"We will continue to have mini local wing exercises to sharpen our skills and put into practice what we've learned along the way," he said. "Keeping the end goal in mind of doing well on the ORI is only one aspect, improving our deployment capability to safely and successfully support our worldwide mission at a moments notice, anytime, anywhere is the ultimate goal."



Courtesy photos

THROW TO THE PLATE - MEPS softball player Bruce Stackpole throws one of his opponents out during the Sept. 2 game at Westover.



SWING BATTER - MEPS softball player David Pettigrew readies his swing in action between the Skyraiders and the Westover Military Entrance Processing Station in September. Also pictured are catcher Ray Saccoccio and umpire James Quinlan. The Skyraiders are a mixed team of Westover military and civilian workers.

Westover teams battle for softball championship

Patriot Wing reservists score 90 or above in fitness tests

The following 439th Airlift Wing reservists have scored 90 or above in this year's physical fitness tests:

Lieutenant colonel

THOMAS G. CLARK
STEVEN A. JOHNSON
UDO K. MCGREGOR
LOUIS SHOGRY

Major

RICHARD COCKLEY
PATRICK CLOUTIER
IAN COOGAN
TIMOTHY S. DONNELLY
COLLEEN KELLEY
DOUGLAS CROW
VANESSA DORNHOEFER
RODNEY B. FURR
FARRIS C. HILL
DALE MAYNARD
MARGARET MCNERNEY
ELAINE TUCCI
STEVEN THOMPSON

Captain

KELLY BRAUDIS
DAVID CAPAUNO
LISA B. HOULE
RICHARD ROPAC
STEVEN TITTL

MICHAELA. TRVALENT
DAVID P. WALSH
JOSEPH M. ZACKARICZ

Chief master sergeant

JAMES R. BRADY
OWEN F. CONNOLLY JR.
CLAUDE G. DROUIN
SHARON L. LAUSIER
CATHERINE J. SKALECKI
TAMMY VEZINA

Senior master sergeant

CONSTANCE CULLEN
MICHELLE M. DUNFIELD
MICHAEL P. GRADY
LANA L. LUE
JOHN D. MACINTYRE
SANDRA M. MICHON
LAWRENCE RODRIGUES
KIMBERLY S. SCHULZ
PETER J. STEEVES
TRACEY TURNER

Master sergeant

DAVID P. ADAMS
DANIEL P. AUBE
KENNETH R. BELANGER
DAVID E. BERUBE
THOMAS J. CESTRONI
LINDA COLUCCI
SCOTT S. CRAWFORD
TIMOTHY A. DAY
MICHAELA. GENDRON
SCOTT G. GRIFFIN
MICHAEL GUERIN

RICHARD W. HALLA
DEAN S. LUND
JOSEPH P. NASH
STEVEN R. NOGAS
SABATINO P. ZONA
ROBERT MAJEWSKI
THADDEUS MALYSZ
KEVIN PIETROWSKI
BERT QUICK
NICOLE D. REMY
THERESA ROBERT
EDWARD M. SIERZEGO JR.

Technical sergeant

KEITH M. BEAUDRY
KENNETH R. BOUCHER
LESLIA. CHAMBERS
MICHAEL G. CLEVELAND
THOMAS F. CURRY
DAVID HALAT
CELIO G. HERNANDEZ
BRUCE LAMAY
KEITH W. LANDRY
CHRISTOPHER S. LANE
EDWARD F. LAROCHE
RONALD J. LEBRETON
MICHAEL E. LEE
SCOTT D. MALONE
RICHARD MESSENGER
PETER MURPHY
ARTHUR RILEY
DAVID M. SHATTUCK
DARLENE ST. GEORGE
GEORGE H. VADNAIS JR.
MICHAEL VOGT
CHRISTINA M. WALAS
DONALD R. RICCHI
JOSEPH RUSSO

Staff sergeant

GERALD M. ATKINS
LATHIABELL
MARCUS L. CEBALLOS
MANUEL D. CHAVEZ
PAUL DOYON
RICHARD B. ENGLISH
WILLIAM HICKS
RANDALL J. KING JR.
RONALD C. PHELPS
WILLIAM A. PRINDLE JR.

Senior airman

HARLEY J. BASETT
ALFRED CHAGNON
TREVOR CHAN
ELLERIEL FULLER
ANDREA LAMOUNTAIN
NICOLE LUDWIG
SHELLY MARTIN
WENDELL MENDOZA
CHRISTOPHER MEYER
PATRICK J. MOLITOR JR.
CHRIS J. RAYMOND
ERIKA L. SAMBROOK

Airman first class

ADNAN RAMADANI
PHILIP S. MCCARTHY
KEVIN J. WEAGLE

Airman

DENNIS J. FORD

Imaging cameras, technology help secure base

Integrated base defense concept protects Westover

by Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse

In August, more than 300,000 people watched the Thunderbirds streak across cloudy skies at the Great New England Air Show. Little did they know, a host of electronic eyes were watching along with them as Westover's new \$3 million, state-of-the-art security system was being put through its paces.

The new equipment, collectively known as the Integrated Base Defense System (IBDS), is a direct result of defense spending in response to the war on terror.

In the days following 9/11, the Department of Defense provided the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard \$351 million for technology and security upgrades.



Sergeant Daigneault

The camera systems now operating at Westover reflect the first money spent here from that allotment, and are the first phase of a security upgrade that will continue through the summer of 2005.

Installed during the two months prior to the air show, the new system consists of 12 color cameras that can zoom in on virtually every square foot of ground inside the gates, and two thermal imaging cameras that are so sensitive they can



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

LIVE SHOT - This television screen, from the 439th SFS central security control room, shows the power of the new thermal imaging cameras. Security forces workers get a clear view as seen with a C-5 being towed on the East Ramp.



Courtesy photo

CAMERA PERCH - Diop worker Phil Hannon tests the installation of the Diop thermal imager camera atop the Westover control tower. The new technology brings a state-of-the-art security capability directly onto TV screens in the central security control room of the 439th Security Forces Squadron.

detect a mere three degree heat differential from more than a mile away.

Overseeing the new system is Master Sgt. Scott C. Daigneault, Westover's anti-terrorism and force protection noncommissioned officer. Sergeant Daigneault has held the position since four days before the Sept. 11 attacks, and is enthusiastic about the new technology. "This is a force multiplier, and gives us an advantage we never had," he said. "It's (also) very user-friendly. It only took a few minutes before I had it down."

An invaluable feature of the system is that it has integrated the command post, base operations, maintenance control center, and central security control, previously independent systems. All four offices are now connected by fiber optic cables and can view the same images simultaneously.

The camera system is only the beginning. Soon to come are high impact wedge barricades, able to stop a 20,000-pound vehicle traveling at 70 miles per hour; a Doppler-based ground surveillance radar system that can track anything moving on the ground at distances up to 20 kilometers; and new "Smart Gate" entry gates - still in development - that will allow entry to the base by access card and biometric fingerprint readers.

Sergeant Daigneault added that, once completed, the new system will put Westover in the vanguard of security technology, and provide a safe, secure, comfortable working environment for base Airmen and employees.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

RADAR CHECK - Honeywell contractor Alfred DeFalco inspects a perimeter surveillance radar system in the Dogpatch training area at Westover.

In the days following 9/11, the Department of Defense provided the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard \$351 million for technology and security upgrades.

Charge card conveniences tempt Westover Airmen

Commanders plan action on reducing delinquency

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

The convenience of a credit card can be irresistible - even when it's the government's plastic.

For Westover Airmen, however, that temptation can result in buying trouble, while earning a spot on a delinquency list.

Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, recently directed that commanders remind reservists of the seriousness of being on this list.

"Delinquency on the government travel card is a serious matter and requires serious attention from individuals and from commanders," the colonel said.

Commanders have recently submitted action plans to address and reduce Westover's current travel card delinquency rate, especially those more than 60 days delinquent. The plans also contain specific actions against individuals commanders will take to address the problem.

These include counseling members more than 30 days delinquent to more serious actions for those more than 60 days late such as letters of reprimand, letters of counseling to more serious administrative actions. Because paying a bill only one day late will place a person on the 30-day delinquency list it is imperative individuals take

a proactive approach, Colonel Farris said. That includes checking off the mandatory split disbursement box on the travel voucher form and allocating the appropriate dollar amount to be paid directly to their government travel card account.

In addition, reservists can now pay their bills online through "MyEasyPayment" at www.myeasypayment.com. To use the system, cardholders need to know the amount they want to pay, the account number, account security code, and their checking account and bankrouting numbers.

Cardholders can check their account balances and payment due date by calling the toll free number on the back of the card.

"The bottom line is there are numerous procedures in place to ensure our people can pay their travel card bills on time," Colonel Farris added. "While there are times where circumstances outside of your control can make you a little late, there is no excuse for the delinquency rates we're currently seeing, and it's time we step up the enforcement actions available to commanders."



Illustration by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

Reservists still need to log in employer information

Time is running out for reservists who still need to provide important civilian employer information to the Air Force.

Military personnel flight (MPF) officials with Westover's 439th Mission Support Squadron must report the number of Patriot Wing reservists who have entered their civilian employment information into a database to the Air Force Reserve Command leadership.

Called the Civilian Employment Information (CEI) program, the database information will help the Department of Defense better assess mobilization impact across the services. As of early October, 17 percent of the assigned members had complied, with this requirement said Chief Master Sgt. Tammy Vezina, MPF superintendent. "We've found that an effective way to manually track this requirement is to have the member print the last screen and turn it in at sign-out, but please use whatever method works best for your unit," the chief said.

As of March 31, all reservists were required to register information about their civilian employers with a Department of Defense database. The announcement of the mandatory pro-

gram was first made in the May issue of the *Patriot*.

"The Air Force Reserve vice commander has directed that we provide a count of who has complied by the Tuesday following the November UTA," Chief Vezina said. "Please take time on the A UTA to log on and complete this." The CEIP program website for reservists to enter their civilian employer information is: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>

Members having technical difficulties with the web site may contact Richard (Jamaal) Lockett, e-mail: Richard.Lockett.CTR@osd.pentagon.mil; phone: (530) 634-1818, DSN 368-1818; or Myra Golphennee, e-mail Myra.Golphennee@osd.pentagon.mil Phone: Commercial (831) 583-2400 ext: 4151, DSN 368-2400.

Additionally, the Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center staff have created an online customer service website where customers can access a database of frequently asked personnel questions. They have recently added information concerning the CEI Program as well. The online Customer Service website is: <https://arpc.custhelp.com>

BX hours change for Saturdays of A UTAs

The base exchange is now open longer on Saturdays of the A UTAs. The new hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call the BX at (413) 593-0232.